

**Amendment to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. An isolated strain of *V. cholerae* having the identifying characteristics of a strain selected from the group consisting of Matlab I, Matlab II and Matlab III.
2. The strain of claim 1 wherein the identifying characteristics are phenotypic traits.
3. The strain of claim 1 wherein the identifying characteristics are genotypic traits.
4. The strain of claim 1 wherein the identifying characteristics are those of Matlab I.
5. The strain of claim 1 wherein the identifying characteristics are those of Matlab II
6. The strain of claim 1 wherein the identifying characteristics are those of Matlab III.
7. An isolated *Vibrio cholerae* strain having the characteristics of Matlab I, II or III, deposited at the National Collection of Type Cultures, London, UK, on August 27, 2002 designated as NC13269-01, NC13270-01 or NC13271-01.
8. A biologically pure culture comprising *V. cholerae* having the identifying characteristics of a strain selected from the group consisting of Matlab I, Matlab II and Matlab III.
9. A vaccine for protection against cholera comprising *V. cholerae* having the identifying characteristics of *V. cholerae* selected from the group consisting of Matlab I, Matlab II and Matlab III.
10. The vaccine of claim 9 that is a killed whole cell vaccine.
11. The vaccine of claim 10 wherein the cells are killed by heat.
12. The vaccine of claim 10 wherein the cells are killed by formalin.
13. The vaccine of claim 9 that is an oral vaccine.
14. The vaccine of claim 9 wherein said *V. cholerae* is selected from the group consisting of *V. cholerae* as set forth in claim 7.
15. The vaccine of claim 9, wherein the number of organisms per dose of said *V. cholerae* is between about  $10^4$  and  $10^{16}$ .

16. The vaccine according to claim 9, wherein said *V. cholerae* is combined with at least one additional strain of *V. cholerae*.
17. The vaccine according to claim 9, wherein said *V. cholerae* is combined with a cholera toxoid.
18. The vaccine of claim 9, which is a combination vaccine.
19. The vaccine of claim 18, which includes vaccine components effective against at least one organism selected from the group consisting of rotovirus and enterotoxigenic *E. coli*.
20. The vaccine of claim 9, which is effective in humans.
- 21-47. (Cancelled)